

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 02097 212029Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 H-01 AID-05 EB-08  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
/094 W

-----118541 212034Z /50

R 211405Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7951

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 2097

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, EAIR, XF, LT

SUBJECT: ARAB AID TO LESOTHO AIRPORT

REF: STATE 301324,

1. UN DESK OFFICER IN GOL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS RECEIVED NO COMMUNICATION REGARDING VOTING PRESSURE ON LESOTHO DELEGATION TO UN IN THE FORM OF CUTTING OFF ASSISTANCE. HE FEELS THAT IF THIS WERE A SERIOUS THREAT, HE WOULD BE THE FIRST TO KNOW. GIVEN GOL'S SENSITIVITY TO ANY MOVEMENT ON FOREIGN AID PLEDGES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT LESOTHO PERM REP MOLAPO WOULD NOT HAVE ALERTED GOL IF THREAT TO AIRPORT PROJECT WERE SERIOUS. BIOGRAPHIC NOTE: LESOTHO'S UN PERM REP MOOKI MOLAPO HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY SOME WHO HAVE KNOWN HIM AS TWO-FACED, DISINGENUOUS AND UNRELIABLE.

2. ON DEC. 17 AT HOME OF UNDP RES REP MCADAMS (US), CHARGE MET  
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PAGE 02 MASERU 02097 212029Z

BY CHANCE ENGINEER TABEIR MAJOUL FROM BADEA (FRENCH ACRONYM FOR THE ARAB BANK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA) WHO IS VISITING MASERU IN CONNECTION WITH BADEA PARTICIPATION IN FINANCING OF LESOTHO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT. ALTHOUGH UNFORESEEN ENCOUNTER WAS BRIEF, CHARGE ELICITED FROM MAJOUL CONFIRMATION THAT PLEDGES OF FINANCING FOR AIRPORT PROJECT NOW EQUAL THE DOLS 20 MILLION REQUIRED TO BEGIN PROJECT. UNDP RES REP SAYS FINANCING

AGREEMENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SIGNED, HOWEVER. POST BELIEVES MOLAPO STATEMENT (REFTEL, PARA 1) THAT PROJECT IS QUOTE IN PROCESS OF COMPLETION UNQTE IS REFERENCE TO COMPLETION OF FINANCING PACKAGE, NOT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION. OF COURSE, NO SINGLE SPADE OF EARTH HAS YET BEEN TURNED. MAJOUL TOLD CHARGE THAT AIRPORT PROJECT IS IN THREE PHASES; ONLY PHASE I BEING ACTIVELY PURSUED AT THIS TIME. PHASE I CALLS FOR AIRPORT RUNWAY OF 3000 METERS, NAVAIDS AND TERMINAL BUILDING. PHASES II AND II WOULD LENGTHEN RUNWAY AND ADD VARIOUS OTHER FACILITIES TO AIRPORT COMPLEX. MAJOUL ALSO STATED THAT PRESENT PLANS OF GOL INCLUDE PURCHASE OF TWIN OTTER AIRCRAFT FOR USE BETWEEN MASERU AND GABORONE, MBABANE AND MAPUTO AS WELL AS JAN SMUTS (JOHANNESBURG), CAPETOWN, DURBAN, PORT ELIZABETH, ETC.

3. MAJOUL SAID BADEA UNDERSTANDS GOL IS COUNTING ON U.S. FOR DOLS 3 MILLION TRAINING PACKAGE. CHARGE SAID PROJECT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED OFF AND ON IN WASHINGTON FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME INTEREST IN CONGRESS IN EVENTUAL U.S. PARTICIPATION BUT THAT U.S. HAS MADE NO COMMITMENT CONCERNING A POSSIBLE TOKEN CONTRIBUTION.

4. UNDP RES REP MCADAMS SAYS MAJOUL GAVE HIM ORALLY THE BREAK-DOWN OF THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS BUT HE HAS MISPLACED HIS NOTES. HE HOPES TO FIND THE PAPER AND HAS PROMISED TO MAKE FIGURES AVAILABLE TO LOCAL DONOR REPS. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE FURTHER IN THIS REGARD.  
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PAGE 03 MASERU 02097 212029Z

STOKES

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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